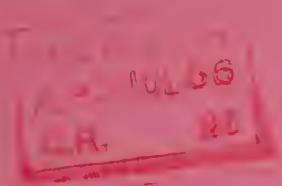


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ASHBOURNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

HEALTH OF



THE ASHBOURNE RURAL DISTRICT

for the year

1955



ASHBOURNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1955-1956

Chairman . . . . . T. J. BRINDLEY, ESQ., J.P.  
Vice-Chairman . . . . T. S. WHEELDON, ESQ.

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<u>Parishes</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
Longford & Hollington . . . . .	Mr. S.T. Allen
Marston Montgomery . . . . .	Mr. E. Beck
Hartington Town Quarter . . . . .	Mr. T.J. Brindley J.P. +
Eaton & Alsop & Newton Grange . . .	Mr. W.J. Bunting
Hognaston & Atlow . . . . .	Mr. W.E. Bull +
Tissington & Lea Hall . . . . .	Mr. J.H. Carr
Parwich . . . . .	Lt. Col. J.F. Crompton-Inglefield J.P.
Kirk Ireton & Callow . . . . .	Mr. S.W. Dean
Hartington Nether Quarter . . . . .	Mr. S. Flower +
Fenny Bentley & Thorpe . . . . .	Mr. F.J. Goodall +
Brailsford . . . . .	Mr. W.G. Goodall +
Edlaston & Wyaston & Shirley . . .	Mr. E.H. Hand +
Brassington . . . . .	Mr. F. Hyde +
Sudbury & Somersal Herbert . . . . .	Mr. H.K. Marshall +
Boylestone & Cubley . . . . .	Mr. S.T. Nash +
Bradley . . . . .	Mr. T. Naylor +
Clifton . . . . .	Mr. G.J. Peach +
Norbury & Roston & Snelston . . . .	Mr. T.G. Prince +
Kniveton . . . . .	Miss A. Selby +
Hulland & Biggin . . . . .	Mr. A.E.H. Sevier
Yeaveley & Rodsley . . . . .	Mr. F. Swinscoe +
Hungry Bentley & Alkmonton . . . .	Mr. P.S. Spencer +
Doveridge . . . . .	Mr. J. Stevenson +
Carsington, Hopton & Ible . . . . .	Mr. V. Stevenson
Osmaston & Yeldersley . . . . .	Mr. A. Thorp +
Hulland Ward & Mercaston . . . . .	Mr. J.H. Wheeldon +
Mappleton & Offcote & Underwood . .	Mr. T.S. Wheeldon +
Bradbourne & Ballidon . . . . .	Mr. F.B. Wright

WATERWORKS AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

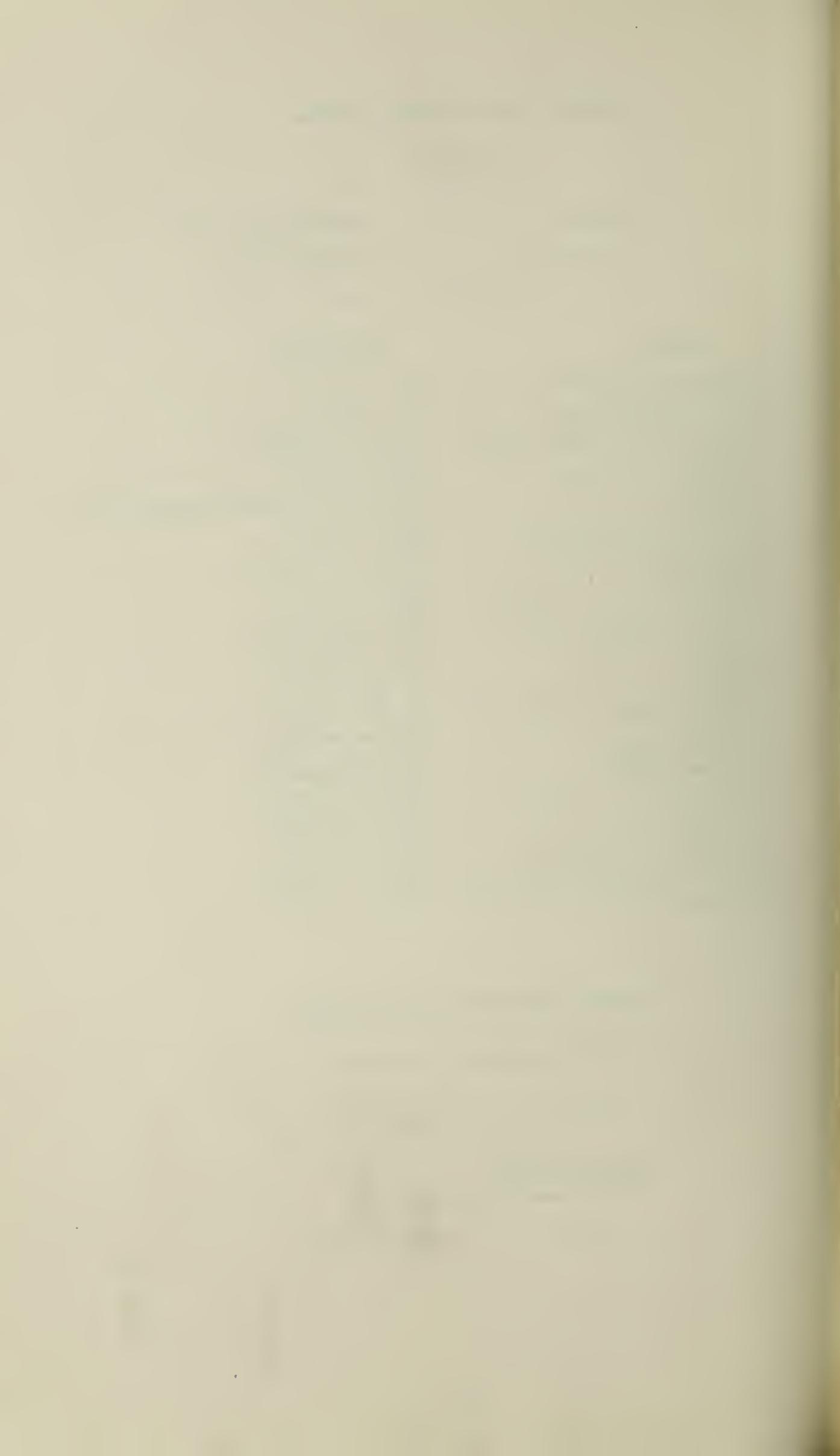
All the members of the Council

Chairman . . . . . Mr. S.T. Nash

HOUSING COMMITTEE

All Members marked with +

Chairman . . . . . Miss A. Selby



P U B L I C   H E A L T H   O F F I C E R S   O F  
T H E   A S H B O U R N E   R U R A L   D I S T R I C T  
C O U N C I L

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Medical Officer of Health

W. J. Morrissey, M.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

H. Litchfield, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

District Sanitary Inspectors

D. J. Cowen, C.S.I.B.

T. R. Sambrook, C.S.I.B. - until May.

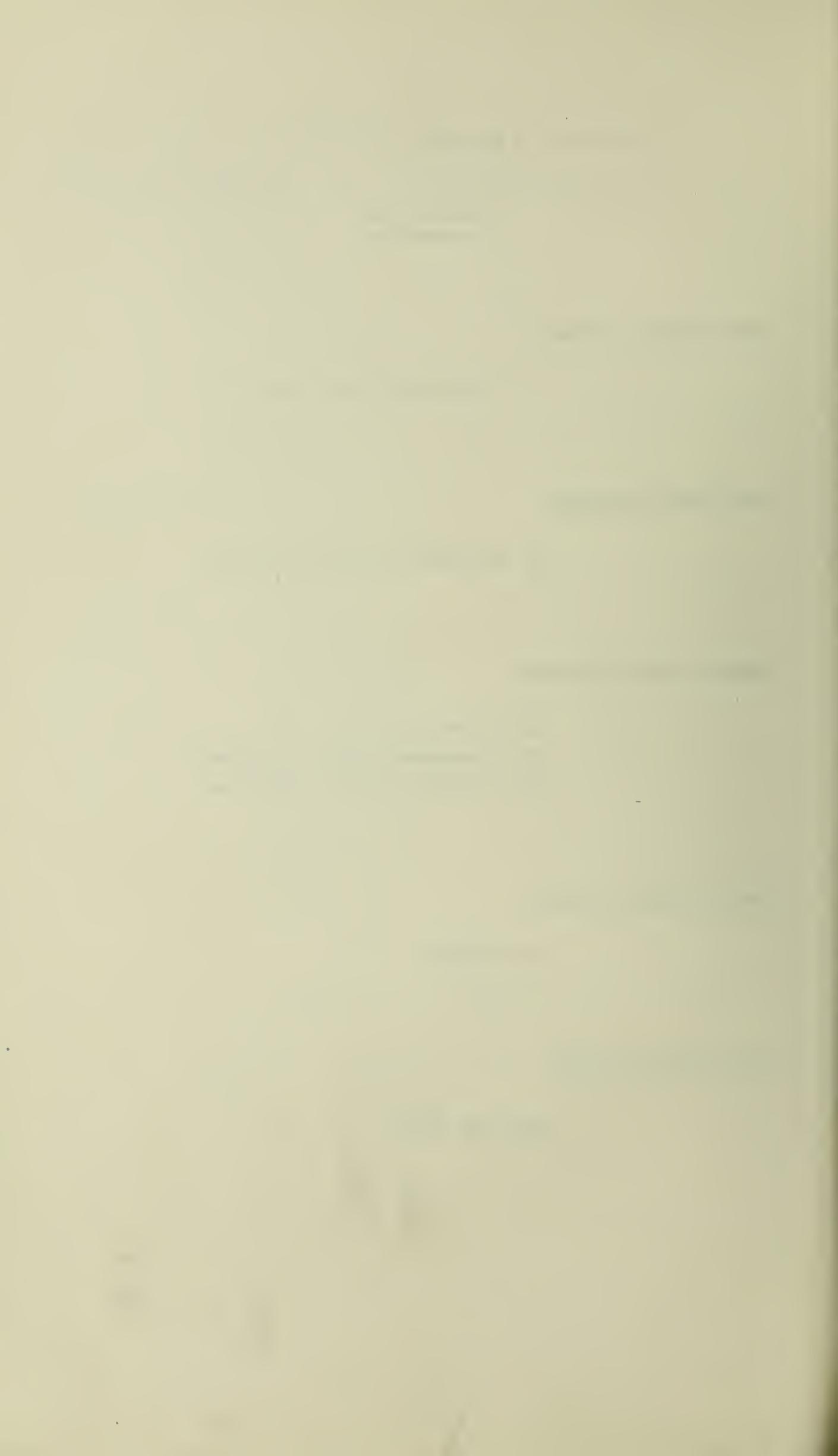
P. K. Bussell, C.S.I.B. - from June.

Student Sanitary Inspector

J. B. Sheard

General Clerk and Typist

Miss P.A. Smith



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Rural District Council of Ashbourne

Public Health Department,  
Compton Offices,  
Ashbourne,  
Derbyshire.

29th June, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the rural district for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

The vital statistics contained in the report can give cause for satisfaction. The mortality tables continue to show the lessening importance of infectious diseases in comparison with degenerative diseases of the heart and cardiovascular system, and malignant disease.

The notifications for infectious disease were high mainly due to the epidemic of measles in the first half of the year. No school closures were thought necessary even though some small village schools had only about 50% attendance at times. Two isolated cases of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred. During investigations at the times, no evidence pointing to the occurrence of any non-paralytic or abortive cases was discovered in the villages concerned, indeed in one case it was impossible even to hazard a guess as to the source of infection owing to the limited social and work contacts of the patient and his family.

During the summer a Mass Radiography Unit sited at Hilton covered an Army Camp, H.M. Prison Sudbury, and held public sessions in which it hoped to cover the population of part of the Repton Rural District and those parts of the Ashbourne Rural District around Sudbury and Doveridge. It is becoming more and more evident that the most dangerous tuberculous cases from the infective point of view are not the diagnosed cases who have received the benefits of modern treatment and have been educated in hygiene but the unknown and often apparently healthy person, or frequently an elderly male who suffers from chronic bronchitis or a smokers cough. Mass Radiography would seem to be the only way in which these unsuspected cases can be traced, but public apathy and lack of sufficient X-Ray units present great difficulties. The older age groups of the population who are becoming so much more important in numbers of infectious tuberculous cases are regularly the most difficult to get to attend community radiography surveys. It has been suggested that General Practitioners who see almost all elderly people from time to time, should get them to attend a Radiography Unit no matter what complaint has brought them for medical advice. This counsel of perfection would seem impossible in this area where there is no convenient static Radiography Unit.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, issued during the year which became operative on the 1st January 1956, should help to keep the subject of clean and safe food in the public mind. The hot dry summer gave ideal conditions for food poisoning outbreaks and several large scale ones occurred in the Country including one due to infected meat pies in a nearby Urban District in Derbyshire. The Rural District however was not affected in any outbreak. Perhaps this explains the apathy which was shown in endeavours to get co-operation for the Ministry's Clean Food Poster Campaign. The continued presence of some dysentery, the increase yearly in the number of food poisoning cases notified throughout the Country, and the realisation that poliomyelitis is primarily an enteric infection make food and personal hygiene a matter of very great importance.

As in previous years the Medical Research Council have asked Medical Officers of Health to collect information from local sources to help in gaining knowledge of the spread of Influenza and Influenza-like Winter Epidemics. This winter was not marked by any significant outbreaks in the Rural District.

The Surveyor gives details of the continued progress with the water supply schemes and it is to be hoped that there will be no undue delay with the construction of the Newhaven Reservoir and the arrangements for a bulk supply from Leek Rural District Council's manifold scheme. The Sheen water supply in its present state is surely not fit for human consumption, and for the welfare of the inhabitants of the Hartington area it is high time it was replaced.

Meat Inspection continues to occupy a great deal of your Inspectors' time and it is pleasing to be able to record that their 100% record has been pretty well maintained. Distances and irregular hours waste a lot of time in endeavouring to keep this most important service maintained.

Once again I wish to record my sincere thanks for the cordial support I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Waterworks and Public Health Committee and my indebtedness to the Clerk of the Council and other officers for their friendly co-operation.

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

W.J. MORRISSEY, M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Rural District Council of Ashbourne

Public Health Department,  
Compton Offices,  
Ashbourne,  
Derbyshire.

29th June, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

At the request of the Medical Officer of Health, I have pleasure in commenting on those parts of his Annual Report for which I am responsible.

Good progress has been made with the Housing Survey, and only four parishes remain to be surveyed. The proportion of slum property is relatively low, but a large proportion of the houses are in need of improvement, especially in the provision of water closet and bathroom. It is estimated that 55% of the houses in the District have pail closets or vaults.

Good progress is being made with making the provisions of the Council's scheme for Improvement Grants known in this District and a good number of enquiries are received. These mostly come from owner occupiers and/or farm owners.

Meat inspection has created a problem, as some of the slaughtering is regularly carried out at weekends and this has necessitated someone on duty every Sunday morning, also over Bank Holidays. If the hours of slaughter could be further regulated, this would help considerably.

Good progress has been maintained in providing houses with a piped water supply. Although the area is extremely scattered, it is now estimated that at least 80% of the houses in the District are connected to a mains water supply.

Although the year under review was a drought year, a full supply was maintained to practically every consumer. A few were affected by overloading of the mains, but none by shortage of water supplies at the source.

The year has seen a change in Staff, Mr. T.R. Sambrook left to take up an appointment in Wales in May and his place was filled by Mr. P.K. Bussell.

I have the honour to be Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. Litchfield

Sanitary Surveyor.



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## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	86,188
Population (1951 Census)	12,020
Estimated population (Mid.1955)	11,680
Number of inhabited houses	3,409
Number of inhabited farms	1,002 (included in the above)
Number of parishes	47
Number of Councillors	28
Rateable Value	£47,156 As at Dec. 1955.
Product of penny Rate	£ 193

The primary industry of the District is Dairy Farming. Milk is taken to the various wholesale dairies, heat treated and sent out to the surrounding towns. In addition, there are two cheese factories.

In the North of the area, which is situated on the carboniferous limestone rock, there are several large quarries which supply lump limestone for road making and sugar beet refining, tarred limestone for roads, limestone dust for agriculture and industry.

Large deposits of sand and gravel are worked for the supply of concrete aggregate in the Midland Towns.

There are also deposits of special silica sand which are made into very high temperature furnace linings at two works in the district.

In the centre of the district, there is a tape mill, and a large proportion of female labour finds employment in adjacent districts in the silk and nylon industry.

## VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Totals	69	77	146
Legitimate	66	76	142
Illegitimate	3	1	4

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 12.5

Comparability Factor 1.12

Adjusted Birth Rate 14.0

England and Wales Birth Rate 15.0

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Totals	2	-	2
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 13.51

England and Wales still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births 23.1

## Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Totals	1	2	3
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Totals	1	2	3
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 13.7

England and Wales Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births 24.9

Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	67	48	115

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 9.85

Comparability Factor 1.00

Adjusted Death Rate 9.85

England and Wales Death Rate 11.7

Deaths from Cancer (all forms)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	11	6	17

Deaths from Cancer, lung and bronchus

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	1	2	3

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING 1955

The following table shows the causes of deaths registered in 1955 :-

Cause(s) of Death	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	3	9
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	8	20
Coronary disease, angina	7	6	13
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart disease	18	12	30
Other circulatory disease	3	6	9
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10
Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	2	-	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>115</b>

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 380 as compared with 134 during 1954.

Details of the notifications received and the numbers removed to hospital are shown in the following table :-

Disease	Number of Cases	
	Notified	Removed to Hospital
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	8	3
Tuberculosis - Other Forms	2	-
Scarlet Fever	7	5
Paratyphoid	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	2	2
Pneumonia	4	2
Measles	304	1
Whooping Cough	48	-
Food Poisoning	2	2
Acute Enteritis	1	1
Malaria (B.T.)	1	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>17</b>

The following table shows the age incidence of the cases of infectious diseases notified during 1955 :-

Disease	Age Unknown	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-15-	20-	35-	45-	60-	Total	
T.B. Pulmonary	1							1	2	2	1	1	8	
T.B. Other Forms							2						2	
Scarlet Fever							6			1			7	
Paratyphoid											1		1	
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)			1							1			2	
Pneumonia								1			2	1	4	
Measles	2	14	22	35	24	167	29	4	2	4	1	-	304	
Whooping Cough		2	5	5	8	26	2						48	
Food Poisoning					2								2	
Acute Enteritis							1						1	
Malaria (B.T.)									1				1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>380</b>

### Measles

The Rural district was severely affected by the measles epidemic in the first part of the year. As was to be expected the heaviest incidence was in school entrants. The disease was mild and very few serious complications were reported.

### Whooping Cough

48 notifications of whooping cough were reported, more than half in school entrants. The figures were lower than expected, probably in part due to the increasing use of pertussis vaccine in combination with primary diphtheria immunisation. Still better results would be obtained in whooping cough immunisation if the necessity for booster doses was more widely realised by the public.

## Scarlet Fever

There was a small outbreak of scarlet fever in Doveridge in January and February with 6 notified cases. The origin was apparently two undiagnosed cases who attended a Sunday School party on the day before their illness. The day school appeared to be the immediate source of infection for most of the children involved; affected classes were swabbed and visits made to all absentees. In addition to the cases with a rash, two cases of otitis media and three of tonsillitis without a rash were traced.

## Paratyphoid Fever

One case occurred. The patient a housewife of 53 years was infected at a sea-side town on the East Coast in what appeared to be an outbreak of food poisoning. She returned home after the holiday when her family doctor immediately had a bacteriological investigation carried out and admitted her to hospital. She has remained a chronic carrier.

## Food Poisoning

There were no outbreaks but two individual cases of salmonella infection occurred where it was not found possible to trace the source of infection.

## CLEAN FOOD EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN

Following the receipt of a circular letter from the Ministry of Health on the 14th April a quantity of publicity material was obtained from the Central Office of Information on the subject of Clean Food and the Prevention of Food Poisoning. Supplies of the material were distributed to Women's Institutes, factories and a number of food shops.

## FOOD POISONING FROM MEAT PIES

Following the outbreak of food poisoning from meat pies in a nearby Urban District an extract from a Ministry of Health Report was prepared with a view to advising manufacturers of meat pies as to what measures should be adopted in bakery practice. Copies of this extract together with a circular letter on the subject of food poisoning were distributed to meat pie manufacturers.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

The County Bacteriologist undertakes, on behalf of the Council, all the bacteriological examinations.

Specimens and swabs taken by medical practitioners are forwarded direct to the Derbyshire County Council's Bacteriologist, Public Health Laboratory, County Offices, St. Mary's Gate, Derby. (Telephone No. 47131).

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Derbyshire County Council's Health Services Handbook sets out the various health services that are provided under Part III of the National Health Service Act and the Education Act by the County Council, and under Part IV of the National Health Service Act by the Local Executive Council, in the administrative County.

The health services provided by the County Council are under the administrative control of the County Medical Officer of Health, and all enquiries should therefore be addressed to him as follows :-

The County Medical Officer of Health,  
County Offices,  
St. Mary's Gate,  
Derby.

(Telephone No. Derby 47131)

## Home Help Service

### Availability of the service

This service is available in various cases, of which the following are examples :-

- (a) Maternity.
- (b) Where a housewife falls sick or must have an operation.
- (c) Where a wife is suddenly called away to visit her husband in hospital and arrangements have to be made to look after the children.
- (d) Where elderly people are infirm, or one of whom suddenly falls ill.
- (e) Where several members of a household are ill at the same time.
- (f) Where a doctor requests that a Home Help is necessary to help with a premature infant.
- (g) Tuberculosis.

The last named presents particular difficulties : whilst such cases are entitled to the facilities available, special safeguards have to be imposed to protect the personnel.

### Rules of Assessment

Certain rules and a scale of assessment have been drawn up and particulars are obtainable locally from the Health Visitors or from the County Medical Officer.

## Home Nursing Service

This service also is provided by the County Council whose home nurses have a certain amount of nursing equipment and apparatus which may be loaned to those patients whom they attend, or those who are being nursed at home by friends or relatives. The equipment available is supplemented by that owned by the British Red Cross Society, to which the County Council has made grants in consideration of this service. In case of need applications should be made to the nearest home nurse or to the B.R.C.S. Township Leader. If there is any difficulty in this connection the Superintendent of the Home Nursing Service for the southern part of the County may be contacted by telephone as follows :-

Telephone No.

Miss M.C. Jackson  
County Offices,  
Derby

Day - Derby 47131 Ext. 112  
Night - Duffield 2101

## Vaccination against Smallpox and Immunisation against Diphtheria

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria are available to all children in the district and may be carried out by medical practitioners or by the District Medical Officer at Infant Welfare Centres.

Visits to schools were made during the year by the School Medical Officer for the purpose of giving reinforcing anti-diphtheria injections and also primary treatment to those children whose parents neglected to have it done at the proper time in infancy.

Supplies of Diphtheria Anti-Toxin which are available to medical practitioners on request are maintained by the Regional Hospital Board at the following Institutions :-

- (i) Derwent Hospital, Derby
- (ii) Heanor Memorial Hospital, Heanor
- (iii) Ripley and District Cottage Hospital, Ripley
- (iv) Victoria Memorial Cottage Hospital, Ashbourne
- (v) Whitworth Hospital, Darley Dale

Various administrative steps have been taken by the County Health Department in order to give effect to the Authority's Proposals and to emphasize the importance of immunisation against diphtheria to the public. With a view to assisting in the publicising of anti-diphtheria propaganda, supplies of Ministry of Health leaflets were obtained from the Central Office of Information and distributed to members of the public. The local Registrars of Births and Deaths have given valuable assistance with the distribution of the leaflets.

#### Ambulance Service

Headquarters :- County Offices, St. Mary's Gate, Derby  
(Telephone No. Derby 47131)

The addresses and telephone numbers of Ambulance Stations are shown in the following table :-

Ambulance Station	Telephone Number		Address
	7 a.m. - 7 p.m.	7 p.m. - 7 a.m.	
MICKLEOVER	Derby 53916	Derby 53916	Station Road, Mickleover
Ashbourne	Ashbourne 441		Green Road, Ashbourne
Ilkeston	Ilkeston 936		Manor House, Manners Road, Ilkeston
Long Eaton	Long Eaton 1055		Old Hall Depot, The Green, Long Eaton
Swadlincote	Swadlincote 7041		Darklands Rd. Swadlincote
RIPLEY	Ripley 75	Ripley 75	Ivy Grove, Ripley
Heanor	Langley Mill 615		Wilmot Street, Heanor
Matlock	Matlock 706		Town Hall, Bank Rd. Matlock
CHESTERFIELD	Chesterfield 6282	Chesterfield 6282	Ashgate, Chesterfield
Bolsover	Bolsover 2121		Church Street, Bolsover
BUXTON	Buxton 2012	Buxton 2012	Park Road, Buxton
New Mills	New Mills 3333		Hague Bar Rd. New Mills
Bakewell	Bakewell 393		U.D.C. Depot, Bakewell
GLOSSOP	Glossop 504	Stalybridge 2650	Talbot House, Talbot Road, Glossop

The following procedure is adopted for calling an ambulance :-

#### (a) Urgent Calls

If ambulance transport is required to deal with an urgent case, such as a street accident, all that is necessary is to call the Telephone Exchange Operator and ask for "Ambulance". The caller would be automatically put through to the appropriate Ambulance Station, when the call would be accepted and dealt with regardless of who the caller might be.

(b) Non-Urgent Calls

If a patient is suffering from a non-urgent condition, an ambulance or other form of suitable transport would be provided as appropriate on the authority of a doctor, dentist, nurse or midwife, providing of course the patient cannot reasonably be required to travel by public transport.

Hospital Service

Cases of infectious disease occurring in the district may be removed to the Derwent Hospital, Derby.

Cases of tuberculosis requiring admission to hospital are referred to the Chest Physician, Chest Centre, Green Lane, Derby, (Telephone Number Derby 47866), and may be admitted to the Derwent Hospital, Draycott Hospital or to Walton Sanatorium, Chesterfield.

All admissions and discharges of cases of infectious disease, including tuberculosis, are notified to the District Medical Officer of Health.

Other County Council Health Services

Other health services provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act include Care of Mothers and Young children, Midwifery, Health Visiting, Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care and Mental Health.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47

No action was taken under this section during the year. Application was made in one case in connection with an elderly male cardiac patient who had discharged himself from hospital against medical advice, but Mr. Jackson the County Welfare Officer was able to persuade him to accept admission voluntarily.

The two cases removed by Magistrates Order in 1954 are remaining in hospital as voluntary patients.

## WATER SUPPLY

The year under review has seen further extensions to the Council's Water schemes, and the following new services have been laid :-

Private houses	83
Farms	14
Troughs (not on farm supplies)	12
Other establishments	1

The total number of connections at the end of the year were as follows :-

Private houses	1771
Farms	473
Field Troughs	179
Schools	11
Other establishments	26

The total number of meters now installed on services throughout the district is 534.

Mains extensions have been made at Hulland Ward to supply five farms in the Mansell Park Area; at Brailsford to supply the new housing site and Luke Lane. The bulk supply to the Leek Rural District Council for the Ilam Area was commenced during the summer months.

The demand for water still continues to increase, and at the end of the year the average daily amount pumped was 546,000 gallons.

During the drought period of August and September, a peak daily demand of 695,000 gallons was reached. This increased demand extended the pumping resources of the Council to their utmost, and proved the necessity for future sources of supply.

An application for a licence to sink a borehole at "Ladyhole" has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, but permission to commence is not yet forthcoming.

Permission has been received to advertise for tenders for a Reservoir of 240,000 gallons capacity at Newhaven with interconnecting mains. This when carried out should enable the Council to provide a constant supply to the Biggin by-Hartington Area and also enable the Council to dispense with the Sheen supply for the village of Hartington.

Negotiations are also in progress with the Leek Rural District Council to take a supply from the Manifold Scheme, now in course of being carried out, in order to give an alternative supply to Hartington Town and Nether Quarters.

A Fringe Order was obtained by the Repton Rural District Council to supply farms and cottages in the "Culland Area" of Brailsford and this supply is now in operation.

## WATER SAMPLING

Regular samples were taken of the Council's own Public water supplies from the four sources and also from along the routes of the mains. Requests were also made from time to time from owners of their own private supplies for samples to be taken and the following table gives the results of the total samples taken during 1955 :-

	Type	No. of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Council's Public Supplies	Chem.	7	6	1
	Bact.	18	16	2
Mercaston Supply	Bact.	2	-	2
Private Supplies	Chem.	2	1	1
	Bact.	6	3	3
Totals		35	26	9

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The small sewage treatment plants for the Boston and Alkmonton Houses were brought into operation as the houses were handed over, the one at Boston being particularly successful in combating the effect of synthetic detergents. A similar plant is in course of erection in connection with the Pikehall Housing Site.

Brailsford Sewerage Scheme and new Sewage Works were commenced early in the year and the laying of the sewers was almost completed except for the two interconnections into the existing sewers; the new sewage works were near completion by the end of the year except for delivery of special fittings and completion of the entrance road.

Informal enquiries were held into the Council's proposed sewerage schemes at Fenny Bentley and Doveridge. With regard to the former the Minister stated that the cost of the scheme per house was far too much, and that a scheme to serve just the proposed housing site and houses in the near vicinity should be drawn up. In connection with the Doveridge Scheme the Minister did not confirm a Compulsory Purchase Order for the site and stated that the new works should be built on the old sewage works site, and asked for revised plans to be submitted to him.

Work is proceeding on detail plans for the proposed new works at Hognaston. A request to take over the existing works at Sudbury has been received and this is being considered by the Council.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

A fortnightly collection is maintained throughout the district and it is being constantly extended to the more outlying houses.

Well over 3,000 bins are emptied fortnightly, and the mileage travelled during the year was :-

Dennis Refuse Wagon	10,892
Bedford Refuse Wagon	11,436

The only change in the tipping arrangements is that the Urban District Council of Ashbourne have ceased to use the tip at Clifton as they have their own tip at Birchwood Park, Snelston.

All the 5 tips under the control of the Council are kept tidy and cause little or no nuisance, and special attention is being taken to keep tip fires localised when they occur. The increased use of all-night-burning fires causes hot ashes to be deposited into dustbins and this is a regular source of fires in the collecting lorries and on the tips.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS YARDS

In March an additional slaughter house was opened and licensed, making the total within the district up to 5. The total number of licensed slaughtermen in the district at the end of the year was 14.

Regular inspections have been carried out at all the slaughter houses, the details of the carcases inspected and parts condemned are shown on the following table :-

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle includ- ing Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	518	45	683	653	-
Number inspected	513	45	681	640	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	3	-	1	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	141	2	32	26	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	28.07%	4.44%	4.84%	4.06%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only :</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	84	-	-	21	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	16.55%	-	-	3.28%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

371 visits were made to slaughter-houses for the purpose of meat inspection. Included in the above figure are 36 visits which were made on Sundays and Bank Holidays. This is an instance where the trade will not co-operate to enable the Inspector to carry out the work in normal working hours, and points a need to a revision in the law relating to hours of slaughtering. At one of the slaughter-houses, the owner also carries on the business of slaughtering of casualty animals and so the percentage of carcases diseased in some way is not a fair percentage for the whole district.

There are also 2 licensed Knackers Yards in the District, and regular inspections of the premises are carried out.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

### Sampling of Milk and Other Foods

The duty of sampling milk and other foods falls upon the County Council and I am indebted to the County Analyst for the following report :-

"In this area 29 samples of milk were taken under the above Act.

Samples in course of delivery to a Dairy Company contained added water. Proceedings were taken and the farmer was fined £5 together with £6. 16. 6d costs.

Four other samples (also in course of delivery to a Dairy Company) were deficient in fat and the farmer was cautioned.

The remaining samples of milk were satisfactory.

A sample of cheese, thought to have been the cause of sickness, was examined. The cheese was of normal composition and no unusual constituent could be found."

### MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

10 Dealer's and Supplementary Dealer's Licences have been issued in accordance with the Regulations.

3 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the County Bacteriologist, 2 were satisfactory, but 1 failed the "keeping quality test".

### ICE CREAM

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream under the provisions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-51.

Four premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for the sale of pre-packed Ice Cream. The total number of registered Ice Cream Retailers is now 20. Regular visits have been made to all these premises and have been found satisfactory.

### FISH AND CHIPS PREMISES

There is one fish and chip premise in the district. Visits have been made and it has been found to be satisfactory.

### FOOD INSPECTION

Following a report by the Headmaster from one of the school canteens in the district, a total of 18 lbs. of currants were condemned and destroyed by reason of being infected with maggots.

Regular inspections have been made of shops within the district. Also inspections have been made of certain Catering Establishments.

### BAKEHOUSES

There are now 5 bakehouses in the district and all have been regularly inspected. It was found necessary to serve an informal notice under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for the cleansing of the walls and ceiling at one of the bakehouses. This was complied with and all bakehouses are relatively satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

20 inspections were made and where necessary advice was given on the best methods to deal with the infestations. 2 treatments were made on business premises and 3 treatments on private dwellings.

Regular inspections were made in connection with the Council's own refuse disposal tips and sewage treatment plants and whenever it was found necessary, bait was laid and a course of treatment given by the Council's part-time Rodent Operator.

HOUSING

The number of Council Houses completed and occupied up to the end of 1955 is 289 and the number approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government up to the 31st December 1955 is 323.

The total number of dwelling houses including Council Houses in the district at the end of 1955 is 3,409.

The following table summarises the progress with the construction of Council Houses during 1955 :-

Parish	Number of Houses in Contract	Number of Houses in course of erection	Number of Houses completed	Handed over	Type
Roston	4	-	4	January	Traditional brick
Parwich	8	-	8	March	Stone faced block
Alkmonton	10	-	10	4 in July 2 in Sept. 2 in Oct. 2 in Dec.	Traditional brick
Brailsford	12	12	-	-	Traditional brick
Hartington	2 (Bungalows)	2	-	-	Stone faced block
Ballidon	8 (Pikchall)	8	-	-	Stone faced block
Totals	44	22	22		

Private Development

Plans for 15 new dwellings were approved for private development during the year.

15 dwellings were completed and 12 in the course of erection; these include development approved in previous years.

The total number of applications submitted to and dealt with by the Council during the year was 126, of which 68 were for development under the Town and Country Planning Act, the total number approved was 117.

Improvement Grants

A number of enquiries were received in connection with Improvement Grants and this has entailed 78 visits to properties. These visits entail considerable time as a detailed inspection of the house is made. The owner is then advised as to the implications of the scheme, as to repairs and possible financial commitments.

In many cases, it has been found necessary to re-design the scheme to make a more efficient use of the space available.

As a result of these inspections, 18 schemes were submitted to the Council and approved, but in three cases the owners decided not to avail themselves of the grant for various reasons.

The total amount of grants approved and accepted is £2,670.

#### RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

Considerable progress has been made during 1955 with the Housing Survey of all properties of £10 and under rateable value, and at the end of the year only four parishes remained to be inspected.

584 houses comprising 16 parishes were inspected and placed in the following categories :-

Parish	1	2a	2b	3a	3b	3c	4/3a	4/3b	4/3c	5c	4/5c	0/5c	Total
Atlow			3			3	2		11	1			20
Ballidon	2		2			3			6	2			15
Bradbourne		6				11			10	1			28
Biggin			5			7			15	1			28
Hognaston	10		8	4	4	17	3	5	6	2			59
Lea Hall			1							1			2
Mapleton	7	3	5			13			8	2			38
Marston	4		4		9	20		2	16	8	1	2	66
Mercaston		4				4			7				15
Rodsley			5			9			10	3			27
Snelston		7	2			19			21				49
Somersal	2					9			5				14
Sudbury	16		43			21			7	3			90
Thorpe	2					15			5	3			25
Tissington	2	1	3			31			19	3			59
Yeldersley	11	5	3			17			10	3			49
Total	56	26	84	4	13	199	5	7	155	32	1	2	584

The total number of unfit houses in the district to be dealt with under the Slum Clearance Scheme is 140. These comprise chiefly either separate houses or pairs and will be taken as individual unfits.

#### Housing Inspection Statistics

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 684
- (b) Total number of Council Houses inspected (not included in 1(a)) 289
- (c) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1273
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so as to be unfit for human habitation 35
3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to in the previous sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 493

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Part I - Inspections

The following table sets out the details of inspections etc. in respect of Factories and Workshops :-

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	8	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-</b>

Part VIII - Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

There were 44 Outworkers reported as employed within the Ashbourne Rural District during 1955.



